

Amendment To The Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method for collecting usage data for a meter comprising:
determining whether data collection segregation rules are current; and
processing an update of the data collection segregation rules if the data collection segregation rules are not current, wherein
the meter includes a removable UIC and a vault; and
further comprising:
determining whether the UIC and vault must be matched; and
determining whether the UIC is installed with the matching vault.
2. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
determining a meter segment type; and
determining whether the data collection segregation rules are current using the meter segment type.
3. (original) The method of claim 2 wherein the meter segment type is dynamically determined by using meter data.
4. (original) The method of claim 3 wherein the meter data comprises the average number of mail pieces processed per day by the meter.
5. (original) The method of claim 3 wherein the meter data is stored at a central server.
6. (original) The method of claim 3 wherein:

the meter includes an active data collection segregation rules storage system for storing the data collection segregation rules;

the meter includes a future data collection segregation rules storage system for storing future data collection segregation rules; and

the update of the data collection segregation rules is performed by replacing the data collection segregation rules with the future data collection segregation rules.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein:

the data collection segregation rules comprise a text string used for printing data capture information in a meter indicium indicia.

8. (currently amended) A method for collecting usage data for a meter comprising:

determining whether data collection segregation rules are current; and
processing an update of the data collection segregation rules if the data
collection segregation rules are not current, wherein,

The method of claim 1 wherein:

the meter includes a removable UIC;

the meter includes a vault having a serial number; and

further comprising:

determining whether the UIC and Vault vault must be matched; and

determining whether the UIC is installed with the matching vault using the serial number.

9. (currently amended) The method of claim 8 wherein:

the meter includes a first memory system;

the meter includes a second memory system; and

further comprising:

determining transaction data capture transaction-data-capture data records using the data collection segregation rules for each transaction; and storing the transaction-data-capture transaction-data-capture data in the first memory system after each transaction.

10 . (original) The method of claim 9, wherein the first memory device is a nonvolatile memory system and the second memory device is a nonvolatile memory system.

11 . (original) The method of claim 10, wherein the first memory device is a battery-backed CMOS memory system and the second memory device is a flash EEPROM nonvolatile memory system.

12. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein the data records are stored using XML.

13. (currently amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the data records are filtered using an application-specific application-specific data filter.

14. (original) The method of claim 9, further comprising:
periodically copying the data records from the first memory to the second memory.

15. (original) The method of claim 9 wherein:
the data collection segregation rules provide for collection of data to differentiate transactions processed using automated rating and transactions processed using manual rating.

16. (currently amended) The method of claim 15 wherein:
manual rating comprises keypad data entry; and

automated rating comprises automatically weighing mail pieces. [.]

17. (original) The method of claim 9 further comprising:
aggregating transaction records into a data report.

18. (original) The method of claim 17 further comprising:
determining a unique identifier for the data report.

19. (original) The method of claim 18 further comprising:
transmitting the data report and unique identifier to a central server.

20. (new) A method for collecting usage data for a meter comprising:
determining whether data collection segregation rules are current; and
processing an update of the data collection segregation rules if the data
collection segregation rules are not current, wherein
the meter includes a UIC and a vault; and
further comprising:
determining whether the UIC and vault must be matched; and
determining whether the UIC is installed with the matching vault using a
serial number.